UNITY FELLOWSHIP CHURCH-NEW YORK

2ND ANNUAL

LESBIAN & GAY PEOPLE OF FAITH:

UNITY IN COMMUNITY WEEK CELEBRATION

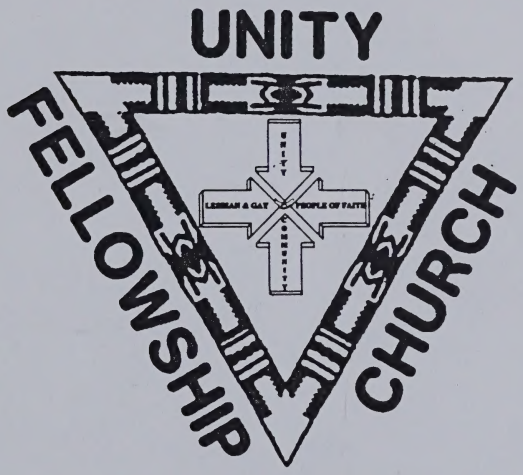
JUNE 19 - 27, 1998

Unity Fellowship Church Movement
New York

2nd Annual

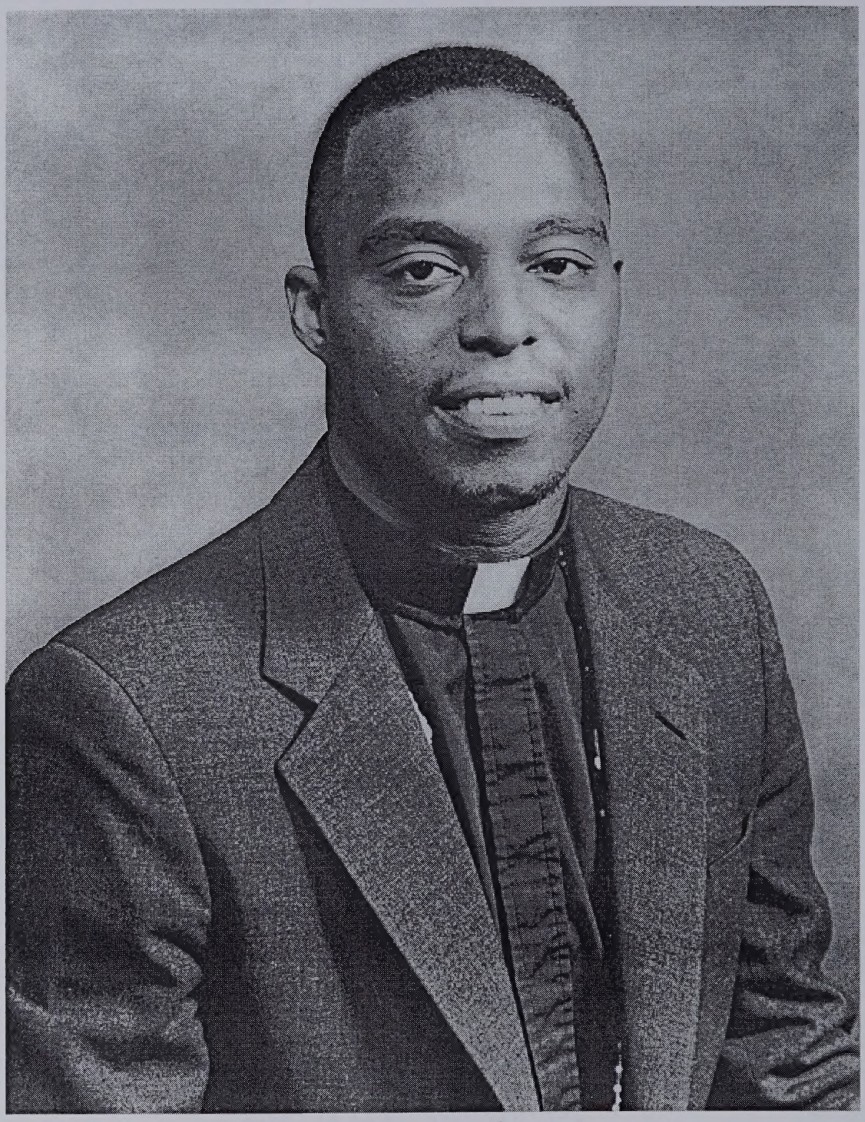
Lesbian & Gay People of Faith

Unity in Community Celebration



Unity Fellowship Church
230 Classon Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11205
(718) 636-5646
http://members.aol.com/ufcnyc

Elder Zachary G. Jones, Pastor/Founder
Rev. Barbara Stephenson, Asst. Pastor



Elder Zachary G. Jones
Pastor/Founder
UnityFellowship-New York

UNITY FELLOWSHIP CHURCH
"GOD IS LOVE LOVE IS FOR EVERYONE"

230 Classon Ave. ◆ Brooklyn, NY 11205 ◆ 718/636-5646

June 21, 1998

Elder Zachary G. Jones
Pastor/Founder

Russell Baptist
Chairperson

Joann Smith-Skinner
Co-Chairperson

William Gibbons
Treasurer

Marjorie J. Hill, Ph.D.
Secretary

Renee Best
Asst. Treasurer

Noel Francis
Debra Rhymes
Anthos Williams

Well, Happy 2nd Annual Lesbian and Gay People of Faith: Unity in Community Week.

What an exciting time to live and experience such a monumental event. Our borders are continuing to stretch out and display the wonder of God, who is almighty. Further proving that God is love and love is for everyone.

Our kick-off theme for this year is Lesbian and Gay People of Faith celebrating Family values. With today being Father's Day, we felt this an appropriate them for our event. Happy Father's Day to all the Fathers. We now know that homosexuality is not a threat to the family institution, instead, absent parents, divorce and infidelity remains at the top of the list of broken homes. Many of us participate in major efforts in holding the family in place. We are the uncles, aunts, brothers and sisters who often times come to the aid of other family members when they are in trouble.

This year, we are honoring some of the most distinguished people of our community. Our honorees are on the front line of change. They are people who are moving and shaking our world. We congratulate the Honorable Councilman Thomas Duane, Prenessa Seal of Balm in Gilead, Rev. Rosa Gadson, Professor and Musical Director, Gregory Payne of Lavender Light Gospel Choir, and Dana Rose of Center Bridge. Each of these people is gifted in their own right. Lifting our society to greater awareness and hope.

Each night we will be praising God in a revival, informational worship service. Our Men's and Women's Committee will sponsor specific events nightly. These will be spiritual messages from our choir along with one of our ministers. We are expecting God's power to revive us throughout the week.

We are grateful for the lesbian and gay people of faith all over this country who are standing with us through prayer support. Not only lesbian and gay people, but also straight people from all walks of life. Which includes our mothers, fathers, and community neighbors. A special thanks to the members of Unity Fellowship Church Family, our Chairperson in Unity in Community, Carmen Price, and the Unity in Community Committee for their tireless efforts in putting this week together. I love you all very much.

Elder Zachary G. Jones

Bishop Carl H. Bean, D.M. – Founder/Pastor
Unity Fellowship Church Movement

Unity Fellowship Church Movement

"GOD IS LOVE"
AND
LOVE IS FOR EVERYON

Bishop Carl Bean, D.M.
Founder/Presiding Bishop

HEADQUARTERS
UNITY FELLOWSHIP
LOS ANGELES
5149 W. Jefferson Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90016

Elder Renee McCoy, M.A.
Full Truth Unity Fellowship,
4458 Joy Road
Detroit, Michigan 48204

Elder Zachary G. Jones
Unity Fellowship, New York
P.O. Box 2708,
Church St. Station
New York, New York, 10008

Rev. Albert Rainer Cheeks
Inner Light Unity Fellowship,
P.O. Box 2045
Washington, D.C. 20013

NATIONAL
OFFICERS

Chairperson
Dr. Marjorie Hill

Vice Chair
Deacon Claude Bowen

National Minister
of Music:
Darren McCarroll-Jones

June 5,1998

Office of the Bishop
Unity Fellowship Church Movement
5149 W. Jefferson Blvd.
Los Angeles, California 90016

To the Presiding Elder
Eastern District U.S.A
and Virgin Islands

May the Love of God richly bless you and the entire Unity Fellowship New York Family as you celebrate your annual "UNITY IN COMMUNITY WEEK".

It is my prayer that each scheduled event is an overwhelming success. This is true Urban Ministry, called forth by God for such a time as this. Ministry that is available for the masses as you take the message of Love out side of the narrow confines of the church building and continue to build The True Church which is the hearts and minds of our Brothers and Sisters. Only the Creator knows who has been selected to receive their freedom as you go forward unselfishly and proclaim Liberty to all.

As I think of my very own youth in New York and the many times I felt so alone and walked those streets searching for an answer, I know first-hand the value of a kind word, a sympathetic ear, an outstretched hand. Someone will be saved from the years of pain I was forced to endure because you will cross paths with them right there in the midst of their search and they don't have to find you because you are willing to go to them. God Bless you all and once again much Love and Success!

Happy "Unity In Community Week"

Bishop Carl Bean

Bishop Carl Bean, D.M.

PHONE (213) 936-4948 - FAX (213) 936-4973
NON PROFIT TAX ID# 95-3981765

Unity in Community Week Task Force

Cohen Greene, Carmen Price, Charles Evans, Linda Coleman-Holly and Edward Jones-Mack
(Not pictured: Helen Arnold, Rosemary Castro, and Rev. Jeff Haskins)

UNITY FELLOWSHIP CHURCH
"GOD IS LOVE LOVE IS FOR EVERYONE"

230 Classon Ave. ◆ Brooklyn, NY 11205 ◆ 718/636-5646

June, 1998

Greetings and Welcome to Unity Members, Friends and Supporters:

The Planning Committee of **The Lesbian & Gay People of Faith: Unity in Community Week** extend greetings and welcome to all our members, friends and supporters in celebration of our second annual Unity in Community Week. We invite you to be an active participant in the nine festive days of sharing, caring, giving, receiving and enjoying.

Unity in Community Week has grown to nine days of celebration of community spirit and service. The primary purpose of Unity in Community Week is to raise the consciousness and awareness of a supportive, all inclusive spiritual community. The events of the week focuses on outreach and linkages to community residents in order to improve their access to medical and social services in the community.

Since the founding of Unity Fellowship Church New York in 1992 to the present, we continue to provide community services for those infected and affected by HIV/AIDS. It is part of our national movement specifically addressing HIV/AIDS in a faith based community.

It has been a labor of love for the members of the Planning Committee. Our first annual Unity in Community Week was organized and executed in only twelve short weeks. Our marching cry and sustenance in 1997 was "We've come this far by faith". In February of 1998 we reassembled as a family group and embarked on a mission dedicated to making the second Unity in Community Week a living testament of who and what Lesbian and Gay people of faith are all about in our community.

Your participation and support of the week's event means so much to us, the Unity Fellowship Church Movement and the Lesbian and Gay Community. We invite you to build on our theme of sharing, caring, giving, receiving and enjoying each other. As we celebrate Unity in Community Week we ask theses two questions: *If not us, who? If not now, when?*

Peace, Love and Happiness,

1998 Planning Committee
Lesbian & Gay People of Faith: Unity in Community Week

Carmen Price, Chairperson	Rosemary Castro	Rev. Jeff Haskins
Helen Arnold	Charles Evans	Edward Jones-Mack
Linda Coleman-Holly	Cohen Greene	

Elder Zachary G. Jones
Pastor/Founder

Russel Baptist
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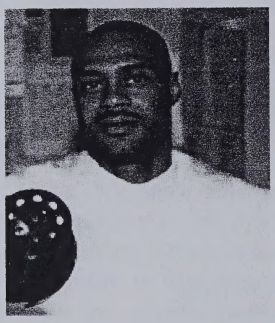
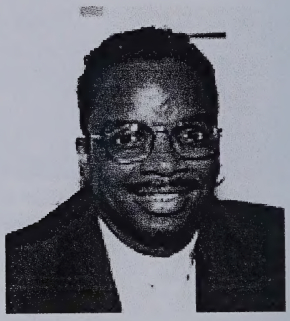
Ministerial Staff

Rev. Barbara Stephenson
Assistant Pastor



Rev. Jeff Haskins



Rev. Allen Spencer

Rev. Cheryl Alston

Auxiliaries

Trustees

Board of Trustees
Russell A. Baptist, Chairperson
Joann Smith-Skinney, Vice Chairperson
Marjorie Hill, Secretary
Noel Frances, Asst. Treasurer

Board Committee Members
Linda Coleman-Holly
Lynn Sexton
Edward Mack-Jones

Deacons

Deacon Gail Jones
Deacon Valerie Holly
Deacon Paul Darling
Deacon Willimae Williams

Deacons Candidates

Marnita Henderson
T.C. Brown
Gearld Williams
Dionne Freeney
Deidre Smith,
Barbara Saxton
Kaye Gamble
Deborah Rice

Auxiliaries

Usher Board

Stephaine Tuitt
Edith Robinson
Sabrina Constella
James Brown
Donn C. Wiggins, Jr.
Allyson McDowell
Idell Small-Head
Arlene Saxton
Barbara Jackson

The Inspirational Choir

Sopranos
Thelma Armstrong
Claudette Bannerman
T.C. Brown
Yvonne Byers
Linda Champion
Stephen Frye
Gina Green
Marnita Henderson
Viola Lee-Llanes
Lisa R. McClain
Cynthia Porter
Bernice Angel Riley
Thelma Simmons

Altos
Charlotte Cotton
Diane Edwards
Janis Elder
Gail Houston
Pauline Kennedy
Quisha Lawson
Elizabeth Llanes-Lee
Ester Miller
Terry Spivey
Carolyn Toomer
Crystal Royes-Trammel

Tenors
Wenceslaus Andrews
Jimie Blair
Chas Crowder
James Hegwood
Tyrone Lancaster
Al Robinson
Timothous Mack-Jones
Deborah Thompson
W.C. Marcus Warren

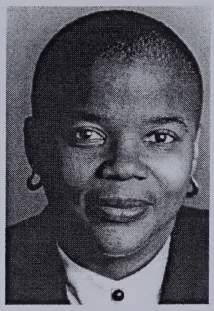
Bass/Bariton
Alvin Cameron
Jeremiah Miller
Rob Shepard

Choir Director: Dionne Freeney
Musicians: John Duffie, Kevin McCoy, Masa, Yvette Scott

Auxiliaries

Young People Church

BISHOP CARL BEAN VISIONARY AWARD HONOREE



Ms. Pernessa C. Seele

Ms. Pernessa C. Seele is the Founder and CEO of The Balm In Gilead, Inc., a non-profit, national organization with headquarters in New York City. The mission of The Balm In Gilead is to work through Black churches to stop the spread of AIDS in the Black community and to support those infected with and affected by HIV/AIDS.

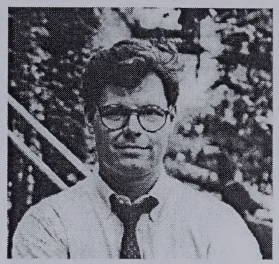
As a pioneer in mobilizing and educating Black churches to become engaged in the fight against AIDS, Ms. Seele is one the nation's most prominent voices on issues and concerns of African Americans and the AID epidemic. Ms. Seele has been adorned with numerous congressional citations, honors, and awards for her success in mobilizing the leadership of every major African American religious denomination and caucus to acknowledge the devastation of AIDS and to begin a dialog surrounding of the role of the Black church in this struggle.

As Founder and CEO of The Balm In Gilead, Ms. Seele has conceived and implemental several successful innovative-modeled programs that are nationally. This includes The Black Church Week of Prayer for the Healing of AIDS awareness program designed specifically for the African American community which has engages over 5,000 churches throughout the United States. This program is held the first week in the month of March.

Providing leadership for a comprehensive health education renaissance for African-Americans is Ms. Seele's greatest challenge. She excels in developing innovative programs that addresses the relationship between cultural and spiritual issues and the health status of individuals. To this end, Ms. Seele works as a consultant to Columbian University School of Public Health and is an adjunct professor of Ethics & AIDS at New York Theological Seminary.

Ms. Seele is former vice president of Harlem Congregations for Community Improvement. She has done extensive work with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlantic; Memorial Sloan-Kettering; Rockefeller University and The Research Foundation for the City of New York. Ms. Seele received her Masters of Science Degree in Immunology from Atlantic University and a Bachelor of Science in biology from Clark College. She is a nave of Lincolnville, South Carolina.

THE RUTH MESSINGER AWARD HONOREE



Hon. Thomas Duane

New York City Councilmen Thomas K. Duane represents the Third City Council District, which encompasses the West Village, Chelsea, Clinton/Hell's Kitchen, and parts of Soho and Murray Hill. Elected in 1991, he is the first openly gay member of the Council and the first openly HIV positive elected official in this country.

Raised in Queens, he is a lifetime New Yorker. He attended Lehigh University, where he earned a degree in Urban Studies and American Studies.

A resident of Chelsea for the past 23 years, Duane has long been an activist and neighborhood leader. In 1982 he was elected to his first four terms as Democratic District Leader in the 64th Assembly District. Tom was also appointed to Community Board 4 and served for 7 years.

An AIDS, activist, Duane was a co-founder of the Chelsea AIDS Committee and is a member of ACTUP. His first legislative act on the Council was the unanimous passage of two resolutions which strongly urged the Centers for Disease Control and the Social Security Administration to expand their definition of AIDS. These were passed in time to be included in the CDC and SSA comment period.

In 1992, Tom successfully fought to increase the City budget for AIDS and tuberculosis services by over a million dollars. In 1993, he led the fight to prevent a proposed $30 million in cuts to the Division of AIDS Services (DAS). The following year, he was tireless in the successful campaign to save DAS, which was being threatened with complete elimination by Mayor Rudy Giuliani. In 1997, the City Council passed Duane's DAS legislation which, among other things, made the continuing existence of the agency mandatory, required increased staffing levels, mandated greater oversight of the management and operation of the agency, and created a Bill of Rights for DAS clients. During the Dinkins administration, he persuaded the City to join a boycott of Astra Pharmaceuticals, in protest of their price gouging of Foscarnet, one of the few drugs which treats AIDS related blindness.

An outspoken defender of women's right, Duane has been in the forefront of effects to establish much needed sexual harassment guidelines and educational training for members of the New York uniformed services.

Duane has also been active in responding to attacks on gay and lesbian rights. He has led large demonstrations in response to homophobic statements and actions made by public officials, including NY State Senate Speaker Joseph Bruno, District Attorney Dennis Vacco, and Congress member Dick Armey. In 1997, Duane passed the Mayor Giuliani to end the city's subsidization of an armed force recruiting station in Time Square because of the miliary's policies which discriminate against lesbians and gay men.

Duane is the author of a bill which would codify in law the provision of all domestic partner benefits to which city workers and residents are currently entitled. The bill would also eliminate any discrimination in city law between married couples and domestic partnerships. Duane has also successfully pushed the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, the New York City Economic Development Corporation, and several New York City Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) to grant domestic partner benefits to their employees.

In 1993, Duane was unopposed in his re-election bid. In 1994, Duane unsuccessfully ran for the 8th Congressional Seat, which includes the West Side of Manhattan as well as parts of Brooklyn. He was the first openly gay, openly HIV-positive candidate for Congress. In 1997, he was again successfully re-elected to his seat on the City Council, with approximately 94% of the vote.

THE GOOD NEIGHBOR AWARD HONOREE

Rev. Rosetta DuBois-Gadson

The Rev. Rosette E. DuBois-Gadson, a native of Chicago, Illinois, grew up in Detroit, Michigan, where she attended Northwestern High School and Wayne State University. Although she grew up in a "religious smorgasbord," attending the Baptist, Pentecostal, Interdenominational churches, and her mother's church, the Seventh Day Adventist Church, she joined St. Stephen African Methodist Episcopal Church in Detroit at the age of 12, when she join the young girl's choir. After attending the church for many years, she ultimately became a Stewardess, where she assisted in the preparation for the celebration of The Holy Eucharist. Although she says she had felt God calling her into the ministry at the age of 15, she finally answered the call on Good Friday, 1981.

Rev. Gadson moved to Denver, Colorado in 1986, after a near-fatal automobile accident and it was there, she says, where she was completely healed--physically, emotionally, and spiritually. She began her AIDS Ministry in 1987 as Founder of THE GOOD SAMARITAN AIDS MINISTRY at Shorter Community A.M.E. Church, in Denver, Colorado, where she served as an Associate Minister. She was ordained a Deacon in the African Methodist Episcopal Church in 1988. At Shorter Community A.M.E. Church, she coordinated the Food Program, COLORADO SHARES-SHORTER SHARES; visited the sick and shut-in; made the hospital visits, assisted with teaching the new members class and Bible study; all while going to school and coordinating the AIDS Ministry.

She says that it was a blessing that God called her into the AIDS Ministry when He did, for little did she know that she was being prepared to minister to her own son. Her older son, Mr. Craig Daryl Gadson, a famous makeup artist in New York for twenty years, was diagnosed HIV positive in May 1990. He lived with the virus with courage and dignity, until him immune system succumbed to the ravages of full-blown AIDS on May 19, 1996 when God called him from labor to reward to everlasting home.

In preparation for ministry, she continued her education at "the ripe old age of 50" in Denver at Metropolitan State College of Denver, then enter seminary at The Iliff School of Theology in Denver, **She dropped everything, including her seminary studies on June 15, 1994 to come to New York to take care of her son and has remain in New York, after his death, to continue her work and seminary studies.**

In 1997, Rev. Gadson was elected to the Board of Directors of the Gay Men's Health Crisis in New York. With that election, she became THE FIRST African American CLERGY WOMAN, WHO IS STRAIGHT BUT NOT NARROW, AND A PREACHER OF THE WORD OF GOD, to join this Board

Rev. Gadson is the Outreach Coordinator for the Balm In Gilead, Inc. in New York City. She joined the staff in July 1998 as the Program Coordinator of The Black Church National Week of Prayer for the Healing of AIDS, after working with Ms. Pernessa Seele, the Founder and CEO of The Balm in Gilead, as a volunteer, colleague and Board Member of the AIDS National Interfaith Network.

Rev Gadson is on of the featured persons in A Special report by The Public Media Center and The AIDS National Interfaith Network, Faith & AIDS: American Faith Communities Respond to the AIDS Epidemic.

Rev. Gadson is also the proud mother of a young son, Anthony Paul Gadson, and her daughter-in-law and three grandchildren. She has become the adopted mother of hundreds of young men and women who have been abandoned by their own parents, churches, and loved ones, so she fondly speaks about "All My Children." She is a renowned speaker and lecturer, going all over the world as a committed Christian clergywoman and AIDS educator and activist. She is dedicated to eradicating the ravages of **all** the "isms" that would separate us, especially racism, sexism, ageism, classism, religiosity, and **homophobia**. For, as she says, Apostle Paul was at least right about this when he penned, " **NOTHING** can separate us from the love of Christ Jesus..." "The fear of HIV/Aids must be conquered so that we can continue to live and work as Jesus would have us to do, caring for and loving one another as Jesus cares for and love **ALL** of us."

THE GOOD NEIGHBOR AWARD HONOREE

Gregory Payne
(Photo not available)

Gregory Payne, Artistic Director of Lavender Light; The black People of All Colors Lesbian and Gay Gospel Choir, is in his tenth season with the choir and has raised them to national and international acclaim. Under his direction, Lavender Light has lifted spirits and inspired numerous audiences throughout the lesbian and gay community and beyond, performing at the Tribeca Stadium for Gay Games IV, the CALA Festival in Tampa and numerous other arenas throughout the New York City metropolitan area.

Under his direction, Lavender Light released its first recording in 1994 and plans to release their second in this year. A renowned music educator, clinician and vocal coach, Gregg has developed innovative approaches to voice and choral training with special focus on African American vocal and choral vernacular. He has directed music and composed scores for off-Broadway and community theater throughout the country. He serves on the faculty and administration of the New School University. He is also choirmaster and director of music ministries at the historic Metropolitan Baptist Church in Harlem.

Gregg holds a Bachelor of Music degree from James Madison University and a Master of Music Education degree from Shenandoah Conservatory of Music and plans to begin doctoral studies at Mannes College of Music

THE GOOD NEIGHBOR AWARD HONOREE

Deacon Dana Rose

Dana L. Rose, M. Div., is Director of CenterBridge, the AIDS bereavement program of the Lesbian and Gay Community Services Center. CenterBridge serves community members who have experience HIV-related loss, those living with HIV and AIDS, and their families, friends, and lovers.

Founder in 1991 as the first gay-identified AIDS bereavement service, CenterBridge offers counseling, referrals, and support groups to assist individuals through the grieving process and with reintegration into community life. Recognizing that cultural traditions and community building offer a way in which to cope with life changes, Dana developed the Ujimia Community for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people of African descent which incorporates Aficological approaches to grief and loss resolution.

Additionally, Dana has provided training on the issues of grief and loss as well as lesbian and gay sensitivity to countless AIDS services organizations, substance abuse treatment facilities, and community-based organizations that respond to the physical devastation of HIV and AIDS.

Dana is a graduate of Bishop College in Texas and of the Masters Degree Program at New York City's General Theological Seminary. In addition to his human services work, Dana is a published poet and a member of "Other Countries," the collection of African American gay writers.

Unity in Community Week

By Len Richardson

sisters in the spirit
brothers pushing too
where would we be
Unity in Community Week
nowhere without you

long hours just planning
endless rehearsals a clue
what we have begun
is just a beginning
for those who are true

it it's not together
then surely it's not apart
one may try to fly
but two can soar
when it starts in the heart

for loving free is work
and freedom is a choice
choose to make it matter now
in a world just waiting
for your voice

we say love is the answer
yet so many wonder
unaware of the power
to heal a heart and still
roar like thunder

just what is Unity
and Community what does it mean
it's me being for you
and you for me
and everything in between

this moment in time
is like none other
we embrace each one
in turn and only by name
as sister as brother

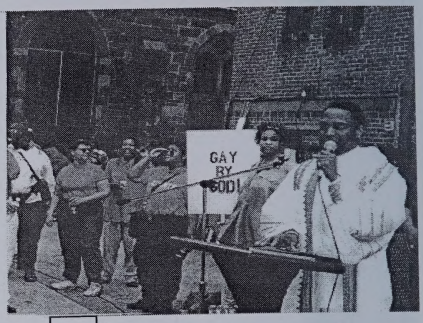
for we are family
and as family we are one
come hold my hand today
let me touch your soul
with this victory we have won

yes we march with pride
strong in our own way
and yes we sing with joy
but what compares to the Love
we make evident every day

UNITY IN COMMUNITY

UNITY FELLOWSHIP CHURCH MOVEMENT
ANNUAL LESBIAN & GAY PEOPLE OF FAITH:
UNITY IN COMMUNITY WEEK
ELDER ZACHARY G. JONES
PASTOR

1



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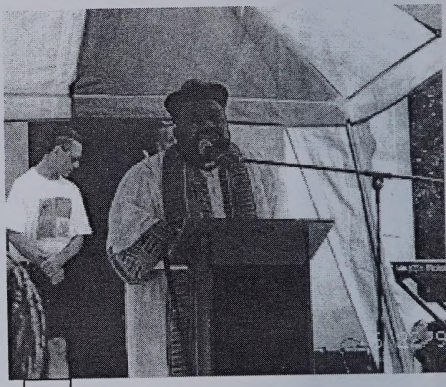

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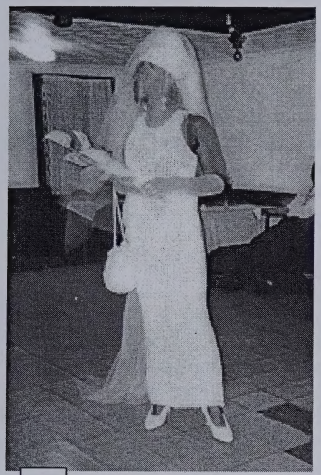
WEEK – 1997



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11

1. Unity in Community banner proudly displayed.
2. Elder Jones sharing a few words of inspiration.
3. Rev. Stephensen welcoming marchers.
4. Bishop Beane delivering Sunday's message.
5. Elder Jones offering a word of pray.
6. Our security force
7. Bro. Mark waiting for his groom during fashion show.
8. Sis. Pauline gracefully performing during Spiritual Freedom Mini Ball.
9. Young People Church selling popcorn at flea market.
10. Liberation in Truth (NJ) singing songs of praise at picnic.
11. Sis. Linda displaying some of the many items on sale at the flea market.

Resurrection

I remember my midnight experience
when everything was quiet
I remember wanting nothing more
than to shed my skin and be done
with the pain
with the loneliness
with the emptiness
with holding my life in my hands
and seeing it turn to dust
slipping through my fingers
I remember the tears falling from my eyes
staining my face
I want to give God back my thirty years
take them back
I don't need them

I remember my midnight experience
because I learned what God sounds like
I heard God in the telephone
piercing through my misery
I heard God in my sister's voice
asking for my help
I heard God as a little baby girl
crying out my name

I heard God in my midnight experience
God has only this to say

Rise

God said *Rise*
Get up out of the graveyard thinking
Open your eyes
Look in the mirror
You are beautiful
because I made you

God said to me *Rise*
You are mine
and I will find you
even in the darkest dark
when you couldn't even find yourself

God said to me *Rise*
Know this
If I gave you nothing else
I gave you angels
I gave you angels to feed you
when your cabinets were empty
I gave you angels to line your wallet
when you were down to your last dime
I gave you angels to watch your sister
while she gave birth
so she in turn
could give you a niece
I gave you angels
to speak to your secrets
to give your power
there is no need now to sleep on your visions
there is no need now to sit on your light
there is no need now to shut your words in your mouth

God said to me *Rise*
I gave you life
Whereas others ask for one more day
I gave you thirty years
So get up
I will lift you up
I will give you legs
I will even give you wings

But first, you must ask me
But first, you must trust me
But first, you must walk with me...

I remember my midnight experience
because I did rise
to another day

I rose with the sun
the like woke me
the warmth kissed me
wished me "good morning"

I rose with the sun
everything was clear
with this new day
God opened the windows of heaven
and kept his promise
And now I dance with the Lord
in the praise of sunlight

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UNITY FELLOWSHIP CHURCH – NEW YORK

2ND ANNUAL

LESBIAN & GAY PEOPLE OF FAITH:

Unity in Community Week

Friday June 19 to Saturday June 27, 1998

Nine Days of Sharing, Caring, Giving, Receiving, and Enjoying

Unity Fellowship Church
230 Classon Avenue @ Willoughby Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11205
(718) 636-5646
http://members.aol.com/ufcnyc

Elder Zachary G. Jones, Pastor/Founder

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Friday, June 19	*Unity in Community Awareness Event at The Octagon* *11 p.m. Doors Open*
Saturday, June 20	*Flea Market at the Gay & Lesbian Community Services Center* *12 noon - 5 p.m.*
Sunday, June 21	*Father's Day/Family Day Service in Fort Greene Park* *(Spiritual March from the Church to the Park)* *2 p.m. Opening Ceremony* *3 p.m. March begins*
Monday June 22	*I Am You: Intergenerational Workshop and Forum* *Rev. Allen Spencer, Speaker/ Unity Fellowship Church Inspirational Choir* *(Men's Committee Host)* *7 p.m.*
Tuesday, June 23	*Day Long Community Meal and Nutrition Information* *Rev. Barbara Stephenson, Speaker/ Unity Fellowship Church Inspirational Choir* *(Women's Committee Host)* *1 - 6 p.m.*
Wednesday, June 24	*Mid-Week Service - Elder Zachary G. Jones, Pastor/Founder* *(Homosexuality and the Bible)* *Unity Fellowship Church Inspirational Choir* *7 p.m.*
Thursday, June 25	*An Evening of Songs & Praise* *Featuring - Lavender Light: The Black & People of All Colors* *Lesbian & Gay Gospel Choir* *Gospel Singers Now* *Unity Fellowship Church Inspirational Choir* *Masa* *6 - 8 p.m. (Reception - available ticket purchase required)* *8 p.m. Performance $12 in advance $20 at door*
Friday, June 26	*Premiering the House of Saints Ball (call church for information)* *Rev. Cheryl Alston, Speaker/ Unity Fellowship Church Inspirational Choir*
Saturday, June 27	*Family Picnic & Community Service Provider Table in Fort Greene Park* *Rev. Jeffery Haskin, Speaker* *Songs of Praise & Poetry* *Featuring - Unity Fellowship Church Inspirational Choir* *Voices of Liberation* *Rebel Child Poet Society* *11 a.m. - 6 p.m.*

Sponsors: Bristol-Myers Squibb and United Way of New York City

UMOJA

2nd ANNUAL LESBIAN AND GAY PEOPLE OF FAITH
UNITY IN COMMUNITY WEEK JUNE 19, 1998 – JUNE 27, 1998
"CELEBRATION OF FAMILY VALUES"

Sunday June 21, I998

A Call to March (3:00 p.m. Sharp)	Rev. Jeff Haskins Emerson & Willoughby
Opening Prayer	Rev. Barbara Stephenson (Asst. Pastor of UFCNYC)
Libation	Deacon Jones
Solo	I Believe (Sis. Emily Robinson)
Praise and Worship	Elder's Praise Team (see song book section)
Presentation	Rev. Cheryl Alston Young People Church
Award Ceremony	The UICW Committee
Bishop Carl H. Bean Visionary Award	Ms. Pernessa C. Seele (CEO Balm in Gilead)
The Ruth Messinger Award	The Hon. Thomas Duane (Councilman District #3)
The Good Neighbor Award	The Rev. Rosa Gadson (Balm in Gilead)
The Good Neighbor Award	The Deacon Dana Rose (Center Bridge)
The Good Neighbor Award	Professor Gregory Payne (Lavender Light People of Color Gospel Choir)
Trumpet Solo	Masa (Amazing Grace)
Sweeping Through the City	Jasyane Wright – Steps of Praise Dancers
Selection	Unity Fellowship Inspirational Choir
Talk on Theme	Deacon Dana Rose
Communion/Poem	Rev. All Spencer/Deacon Bro. Rodney McKoy/Bro. Len Richardson
Offering	Trustees
Thought for the Week	Rev. Barbara Stephenson
Sermon	Elder Zachary G. Jones
Closing Prayer	Minister

Monday June 22, 1998 **Men's Committee Sponsors**

I AM YOU

Worship and Praise	Elder's Praise Team
7:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.	Meet and Greet Coffee Hour New York Room-Rectory
7:30 p.m. – 7:40 p.m.	Welcome and Introduction John Gabriel Ortiz, Coordinator
7:40 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.	Inter-Generation Workshop Facilitators
8:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.	Wrap-up Testimony The Community
Selection	The Men's Chorus of UFC
Introduction of Speaker	Elder Zachary G. Jones
Offering	Trustees
Speaker	Rev. Allen Spencer
Closing Remarks/Announcements	Elder Jones and Committee
Closing Prayer	Minister

Tuesday June 23, 1998 **Women's Committee Sponsors**

Community Meal All Are Invited to Eat and Worship!

1:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.	*Meal Served* Greeting and Meeting Volunteers
7:00 p.m.	
Worship and Praise	Elder's Praise Team
Opening Prayer	Minister
Testimony	Deacon
Selection	UFC Women's Committee
Thought/Introduction	Minister
Offering	Trustees
Sermon	Rev. Barbara Stephenson
Closing Prayer	Minister

Wednesday June 24, 1998

Homosexuality and the Bible

7:00 p.m.	
Worship and Praise	Elder's Praise Team
Opening Prayer	Minister
Testimony	Deacon
Selection	UFC Inspirational Choir
Thought/Introduction	Minister
Offers	Trustees
Sermon	Elder Zachary G. Jones
Closing Prayer	Minister

Thursday June 25, 1998

An Evening of Songs and Praise

6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.	Reception (Advance ticket purchase only)
8:00 p.m.	
Worship and Praise	Elder's Praise Team
Opening Prayer	Minister
Testimony	Deacon
Selections	UFC Inspirational Choir
Selection/Saxophone	Masa
INTERMISSION	10 Minutes
SPECIAL GUEST	Lavender Light: The Black & People of Color Lesbian & Gay Gospel Choir
	Gospel Singers Now
Closing Prayer	Minister

Friday June 26, 1998

The House of Saints
2nd Annual Mini-Ball

8:00 p.m.	
Worship and Praise	Elder's Praise Team
Opening Prayer	Minister
Welcome	St. Jon Gabriel
Selection	UFC Inspirational Choir
Speaker	Rev. Cheryl Alston
Let The Ball Begin	
Closing Prayer	Minister

Saturday June 27, 1998

UICW Family Picnic
Community Service Provider Table
Volunteer Awards
@ Ft. Greene Park

11:00 a.m.	Picnic
Selection	UFC Inspirational Choir
1:00 p.m.	
Speaker	Rev. Jeff Haskins
Poetry in the Park	UFC Poets Society
Presentation of Awards	Ministerial Staff
Closing Remarks	UICW Committee
Closing Prayer	Minister

ARRIVING HOME

By: Victor Samdua

In 1995, while living in Brooklyn, I heard about Unity Fellowship. My lover at the time had visited and enjoyed the experience. I, of course, wanted nothing to do with a "gay church." I, like many others, had preconceived misconceptions. I just assumed there would be men coming on to me and "drama queens" rolling on floors. I was deeply homophobic and brainwashed from the teachings of my traditional religious background. Even though I knew I was born just the way I am, and was beginning to accept that fact, I still struggled to even face myself. I had always wanted to worship in a house of God where no one would condemn me, but I would not step out on faith and give Unity a try.

In 1996, now living in Jersey City, I yielded to the urge and visited one Sunday afternoon. I was greeted at the door by neatly dressed, uniformed ushers who led me to my seat. The energy was electric; the congregation was lively. I was nervous and did not respond when they asked "first-time visitors" to stand and be welcomed. The choir sang beautifully and the collection was only done once. I was deeply troubled that Sunday and God led me to Unity because he had a message to deliver through Reverend Zachary Jones. I really had to ask myself how he knew what hell I was in. It's as if he spoke only to me. He said in his sermon that I didn't love myself but I wanted a man to love me. He said I had no business asking a man to be a certain way and to love me when I was not those things. He said I should realize that God created me loved me "just the way I am." And that I should step out in faith and claim all the rewards it brings: inner-peace, self-love, and spiritual fulfillment. These things are all true.

Although, the spirit of God moved through me that day it took me a while longer to yield to God's direction before I attended fellowship regularly. Another year of depression and suicidal tendencies had passed and after almost succeeding one night, God spoke to me. She said she *was not* letting me go because she had work for me to do, blessing to bestow, and a better life for me to live. After all those years of self-torture I finally understood I could not do it alone, a man can't do it and my friends could not do it. It takes my God, my Creator to save my spiritual self and to offer salvation. I turned my life over to him then and felt freedom like I had never felt before.

Now I'm a member and getting involved in the work that Unity does for the betterment of the gay and straight community. I simply don't feel right when I miss my weekly spiritual nourishment: *God is love and love is for everyone*, even those of use who rush to judgement without the first-hand knowledge. Each Sunday we receive and share this message and respond in many different ways. I have brought friends to Unity, some have returned; some have not, I pray I'm here to stay. I am home.

My special thanks to Elder Zachary Jones for guiding me through my spiritual growth. To Reverends Stephenson, Haskins, and Spencer for reaching out, welcoming me and for not allowing me to sit in the back of the church and not be involved in the Unity movement. And to the entire Unity Fellowship family whose voices and love greet me each Sunday afternoon.

On a Lighter Note...

By Rodney McCoy, Jr.

In looking at the sisters churches of the Unity Fellowship Movement, it seems that we at Unity have a particular love of **truth**. Consider the fact that five of the nine churches have "trust" in their name (*Liberation in Truth* of Newark; *Full Truth* of Detroit; *Sojourner Truth* of Seattle; *Divine Truth* of Riverside; and *Spiritual Truth* of Long Beach). As the Movement grows, and new churches are established throughout the country, let me suggest titles that keep with the current trend:

It's the God's Honest Truth Unity Fellowship Church
(no lie!)

The Truth, the Whole Truth, and Nothing But the Truth Unity Fellowship
(no additives, no preservatives, just plain ol' truth)

To Tell The Truth Unity Fellowship, or
Truth and Consequences Unity Fellowship
(for those of you who like game shows)

The Truth is Out There Fellowship Church
(X-Files devotees need apply)

and my personal favorite...
You Can't Take the Truth! Unity Fellowship Church

AN OPEN LETTER TO MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS

Dear Brothers and Sisters;

If a tree falls in the middle of the forest, but there is no one there to hear it, does it still make a noise? While this has been a question of great debate for a very long time now, it is no debate that it is a great analogy to our involvement in Unity In Community Week.

It is not enough for us to come to church on Sundays-- because the Lord's work is often times an 8-day a week job. As Unity In Community Week draws near, we are challenged with the responsibility of participating, learning and reciprocating all that Unity In Community Week has to offer. We need to start taking responsibility for our own progress and the progress of our communities. We must start to own the problems that keep our communities in social distress. Remember that if we are not part of the solution, then we become part of the problem.

Just recently, our Pastor, Elder Jones, spoke about how we don't deal with our own internalized homophobia but expect our friends, families and communities to understand it, accept it and deal with it. This is a sad situation that we must address, quickly! We must start to build forums that will deal with this subject and many others. But remember that discussing the problem is just not good enough, we must start by discussing tools that will enable us to overcome the obstacles that prohibit us from moving forward. That is why I created *Soul to Speak*. Soul to Speak, is a monthly discussion session that allows brothers of all identities to discuss certain issues that continue to plague our community and allows us to assess different tools that help heal our communities.

Unity In Community Week challenges us to start opening our arms, our hearts, our minds and our mouths. What good is our healing if we continue to heal in the shadows, where no one can see us. What good is learning about truth, love and the goodness of God if there is no one there to hear us testify.

The challenge does not stop after Unity In Community Week ends, but rather, the challenge becomes fortified in its absence. I partake in this challenge and invite to become an active part of your community. Join a community-based organization that is working to uplift your community.

Remember that the challenge lies not in whether the forest is occupied or not, but whether you desire to be a strong tree willing to make some noise.

Fraternally yours,

Jon Gabriel

UNITY FELLOWSHIP CHURCH
MENS FELLOWSHIP

PRESENTS

I AM YOU!

AN INTERGENERATIONAL DISCUSSION ON PERSONAL EXPERIENCES AND SPIRITUAL TESTIMONIES

IN CELEBRATION OF UNITY IN COMMUNITY WEEK, THE MEN'S FELLOWSHIP WILL HOST A COMMUNITY-ORIENTED FORUM CENTERED AROUND THE PERSONAL EXPERIENCES AND SPIRITUAL TESTIMONIES OF PEOPLE FROM DIFFERENT GENERATIONS AND HOW THEY BIND US AS A COMMUNITY. TELL US WHAT ARE SOME OF THE ISSUES THAT YOUR GENERATION FACES IN TODAY'S SOCIETY. COME SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCES AND LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD.

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Lesbian & Gay Gospel Choir

Gosepel Singers Now

Unity Fellowship Church Inspirational Choir

&

Masa

June 25, 1998

6 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. – Reception
(Advance ticket purchase only)

8:00 p.m.
Program Begins

$12.00 in advance

$20.00 at door

Unity Fellowship Church
120 Classson Avenue @ Willoughby Avenue
Brooklyn, NY
(718) 636-5646

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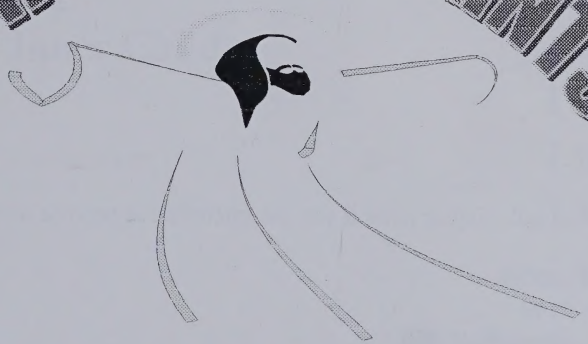
BREAKING GROUND

PRESENT

THE HOUSE OF SAINTS



2ND ANNUAL MINI-BALL

DATE:	FRIDAY, JUNE 26, 1998
TIME:	8PM – 12 MIDNIGHT
PLACE:	St. Mary's Parrish Hall 230 Classon Avenue (Cor. Of Willoughby Ave.)
PRICE:	$8 IN ADVANCE / $10 AT THE DOOR
TABLES:	FREE (CALL JON GABRIEL FOR RESERVATIONS)
TRAINS:	"A" train to Hoyt – Schmerhorn Station switch to "G" train to Classon Ave.
INFO:	Unity Fellowship (718) 636-5646 St. Jon Gabriel (917) 829-5932

Unity Fellowship/ Breaking Ground

UFBG is a 501 c (3) non-profit corporation whose mission is to provide education and support services to all youths and their families.

With special services geared towards gay, lesbian and bisexual young people (ages 18-25).

COUNSELING

- Someone to talk to
- Information
  - i. Clarity
  - ii. Identity
  - iii. Family Issues
- Peer Relationships
  - ➤ Straight
  - ➤ Lovers
  - ➤ HIV Positive
  - ➤ Male
  - ➤ Female
  - ➤ Gay/Lesbian
  - ➤ Fitting in
  - ➤ Loneliness

EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT

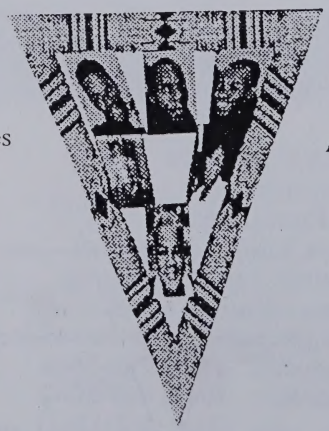
- High risk behavior change workshop
- Sex Sex Sex
  - a. "Holding Out", Non-Active, Abstaining
  - b. Protection and Prevention
  - c. Pregnancy
  - d. Transmitted Disease

Please feel free to call, visit or write if you are interested in become a volunteer or peer educator.

Phone - (718) 636-0988
Fax - (718) 399-3149
Email address - ufcnyc@aol.com

Elder Zachary G. Jones
Executive Director

Rev. Jeff Haskins
Program Director



William Warren
Program Director

Helen Arnold
Secretary

Unity Fellowship Tape Sale

Did you miss a Sunday?

or

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Now is you chance to get the tape.

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(unless indicated)

Series Titles	Tapes
Healing The Inner Child	1 to 11
Peacemaker	1 & 2
Attitudes	1 to 6
Merciful	1 to 4
Evolution	1 to 3
Elder Zachary G. Jones - Early Years (1993 & 94)	$4.00 each

For tapes contact:

Sis. Susan Williams
Lenny Jefferies Memorial Tape Ministry
Unity Fellowship Church
120 Classon Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11205
(718) 636-5646

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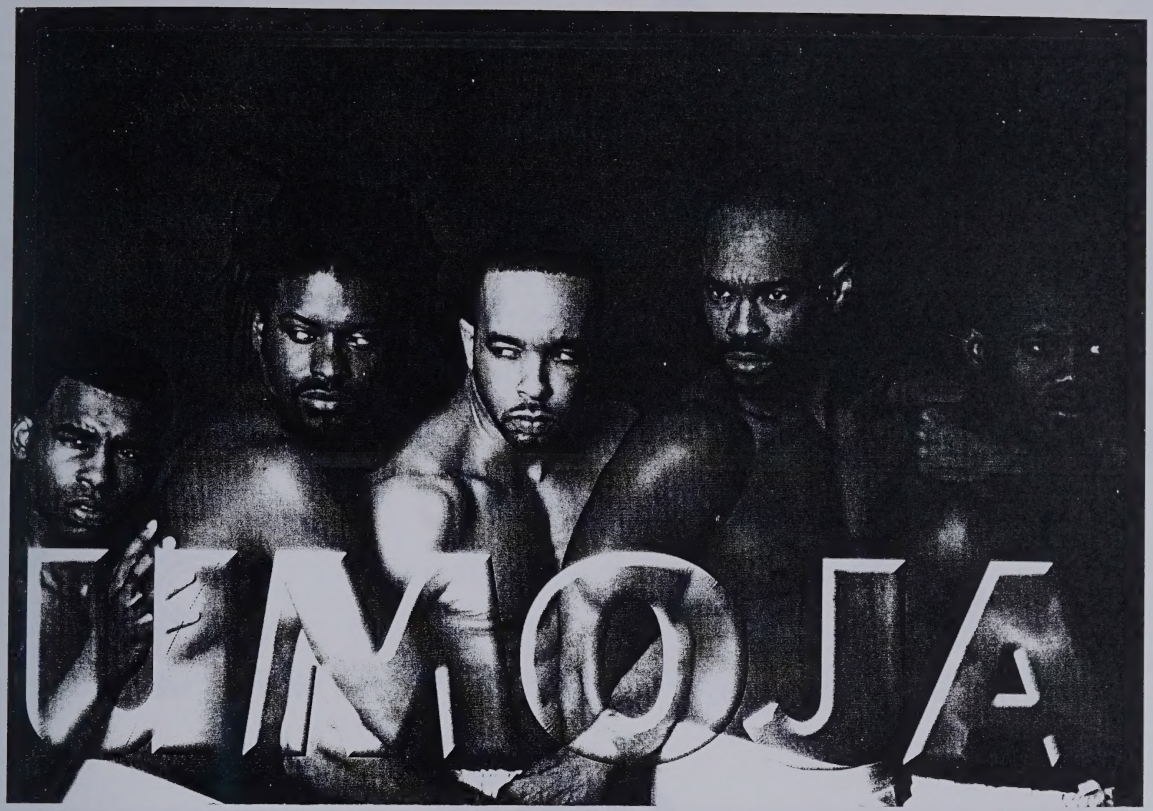

Gay Men of African Descent
7th Annual Fashion Show
Saturday, June 20, 1998

at Twirl, 208 West 23rd Street
Tickets: $25 in advance, $30 at the door
For more information, call GMAD at (212) 414-9344

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Salutes the
Unity Fellowship Church
Unity in Community Week - 1998

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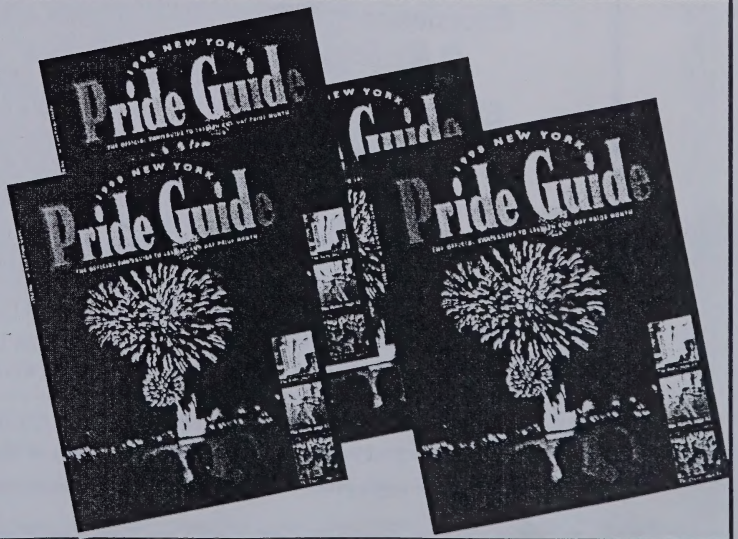

UNITY FELLOWSHIP CHURCH MOVEMENT

5th Annual

SPIRITUAL CONVOCATION

OCTOBER 4-11, 1998

Bishop Carl Bean, D.M., Officiating

God is Love and Love Is for EVERYONE!

Convocation Theme:

"ONE"

"UNO"
"ENNE"
"UNE"

1

WORKSHOP TOPICS

The Art of Loving Self

What the Bible REALLY Says About Homosexuality!

Celeberate God's Diversity In Sexuality: Transgender & Bisexual Issues

Breaking the Cycle Of Domestic Violence

Experience Spirituality In My Sexuality

Effective Outreach to Youth At Risk

Overcome All Fear of the Devil and Hell

How to Overcome Sexual Abuse & Childhood Incest: A Spiritual Healing Seminar

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

EARLY REGISTRATION:
$125 on or before 9./1/98
LATE REGISTRATION:
$150 after 9/1/98
2 DAY REGISTRATION
(Fri. & Sat. Only) $100

HOTEL INFORMATION

The Westin
Los Angeles Airport
5400 W. Century Blvd
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Phone: (310) 216-5858

ROOM RATES

$89 / Night - Single/Double
Ask for the group code "Unity Fellowship." Reservations must be confirmed by a credit card or a one-night room deposit.

TRAVEL INFORMATION

American Airlines is the official airline for this National Convocation. Special discounted air-fares can be obtained by calling Travel Lab at (800) 747-7026.

For more information, call Rev. Alfreda Lanoix at (213) 936-4948, M-F, 9 AM - 6 PM Pacific Time. Registration forms can be picked up at the church office/(718) 636-5646.

Ashé'

Word